Check List **5**(2): 418–421, 2009.
ISSN: 1809-127X

NOTES ON GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION

Amphibia, Anura, Microhylidae, *Elachistocleis skotogaster*: Map of geographic distribution, distribution extension, and new altitudinal records

Rodrigo Cajade [1]
Diego A. Barrasso [2]
Santiago J. Nenda [3]

[1] *Centro de Ecología Aplicada del Litoral - CONICET.*
Ruta Provincial 5 km 2.5, (3400) Corrientes, Argentina. E-mail: rodrigocajade@hotmail.com

[2] *Centro de Investigaciones del Medio Ambiente, Departamento de Química, Facultad de Ciencias Exactas, UNLP. 47 y 115, (1900) La Plata, Buenos Aires, Argentina.*

[3] *Museo Argentino de Ciencias Naturales "Bernardino Rivadavia", División Herpetología. Ángel Gallardo 470, (1405) Ciudad Autónoma de Buenos Aires, Argentina.*

The genus *Elachistocleis* is a neotropical group of small sized microhylid frogs, which is represented by two species in Argentina: *Elachistocleis bicolor* (Guérin-Méneville, 1838) and *E. skotogaster* Lavilla, Vaira and Ferrari, 2003. *E. skotogaster* was only known for the type locality Los Toldos, Santa Victoria department, Salta, 1100 m (Lavilla et al. 2003; Lavilla 2004), however, specimens from Bolivia with spotted bellies that are currently attributed to *Elachistocleis ovalis* might pertain to *E. skotogaster* (Lavilla 2004).

During fieldwork, on January 12th 2006, we detected several calling males of *E. skotogaster* in small temporary ponds along the margins of the *Ruta Provincial N° 18*, in a humid montane forest area, near to Isla de Cañas (22°53'54" S, 64°39'54" W; 800 m; Figure 1), Iruya department, Salta province, Argentina. One adult female was collected in this locality and deposited in the Herpetological Collection of *Museo de La Plata*, Buenos Aires, Argentina (MLP.A.4900; Figure 2).

Adult calling males and one metamorphic specimen of *E. skotogaster* were seen or heard in small temporary ponds formed at the margins of the *Ruta Nacional* number 50, near to the intersection with the Río Piedras (23°4'50" S, 64°19'47" W; 350 m) upstream Aguas Blancas (22°45'17" S, 64°20'47" W; 410 m), both located in Orán department, Salta province, Argentina (Figure 1).

Figure 1. Distribution map showing type locality (black triangle) and new distribution records (squares) of *E. skotogaster*: (1) voucher specimen (MLP.A. 4900) locality, near to Isla de Cañas; visual and auditory detection near to Río Piedras (2) and to Aguas Blancas (3).

Check List **5**(2): 418–421, 2009.
ISSN: 1809-127X

NOTES ON GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION

The specific identification of acoustic reports was performed by the advertisement calls. The call consisted of a sustained trill formed by a long and loud multipulsed note with a dominant frequency peak at 3660 Hz (Figure 3), which matches the *E. skotogaster* call description given by Lavilla et al. (2003). In agreement with previous observations (Lavilla et al. 2003) the environments in which we recorded the specimens of *E. skotogaster* were disturbed anthropic areas. The specimen (MLP.A.4900) represents the first record of a population of *E. skotogaster* outside its type locality, and its distribution range is extended 70 km south from Los Toldos. Acoustic and visual reports also extend its distribution 95 km southeast from the type locality, being also the lowest altitudinal record of the species (350 m).

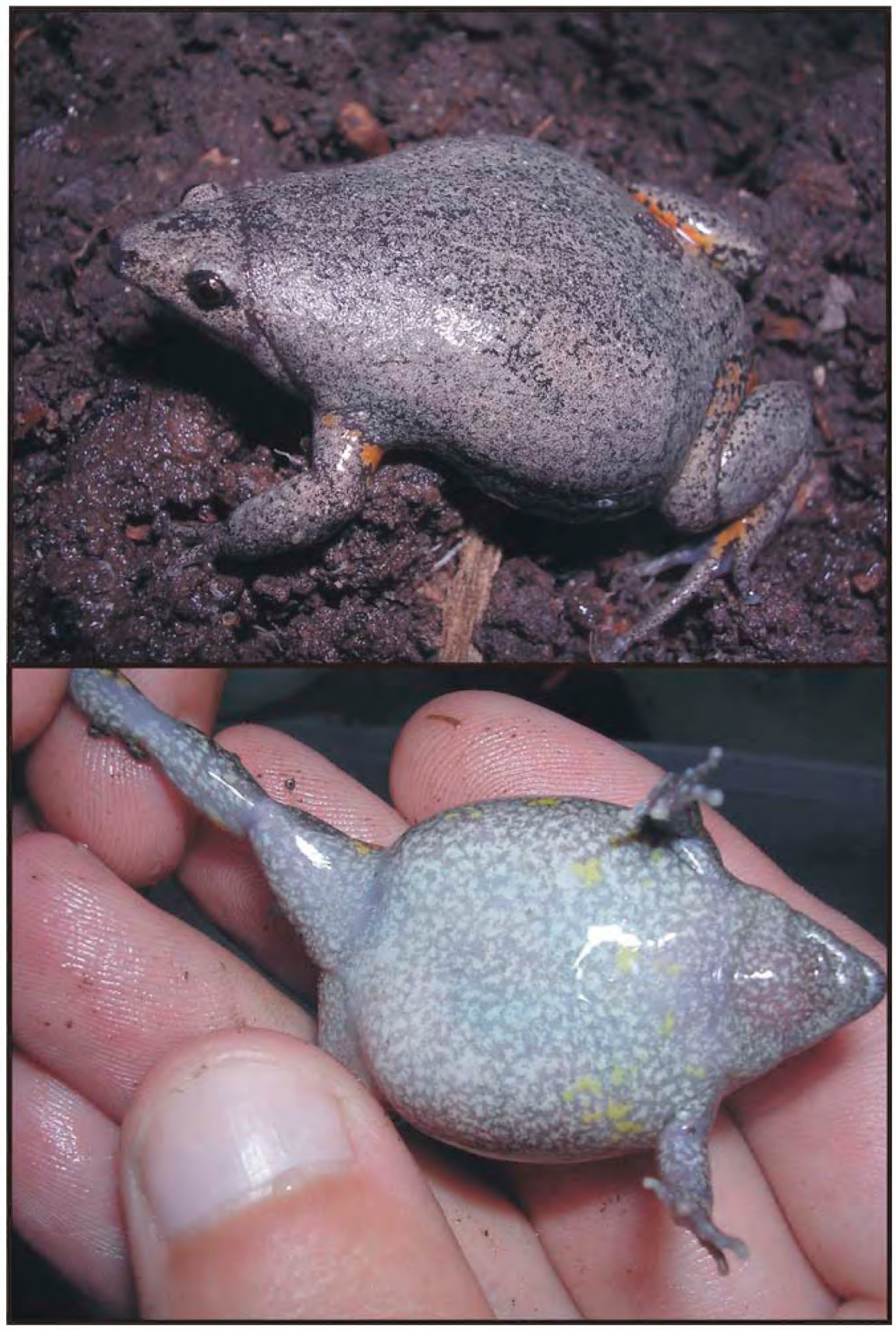

Figure 2. Dorsal and ventral view of an adult female of *E. skotogaster* (MLP.A.4900) collected near Isla de Cañas, Salta province, Argentina.

Check List **5**(2): 418–421, 2009.
ISSN: 1809-127X

NOTES ON GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION

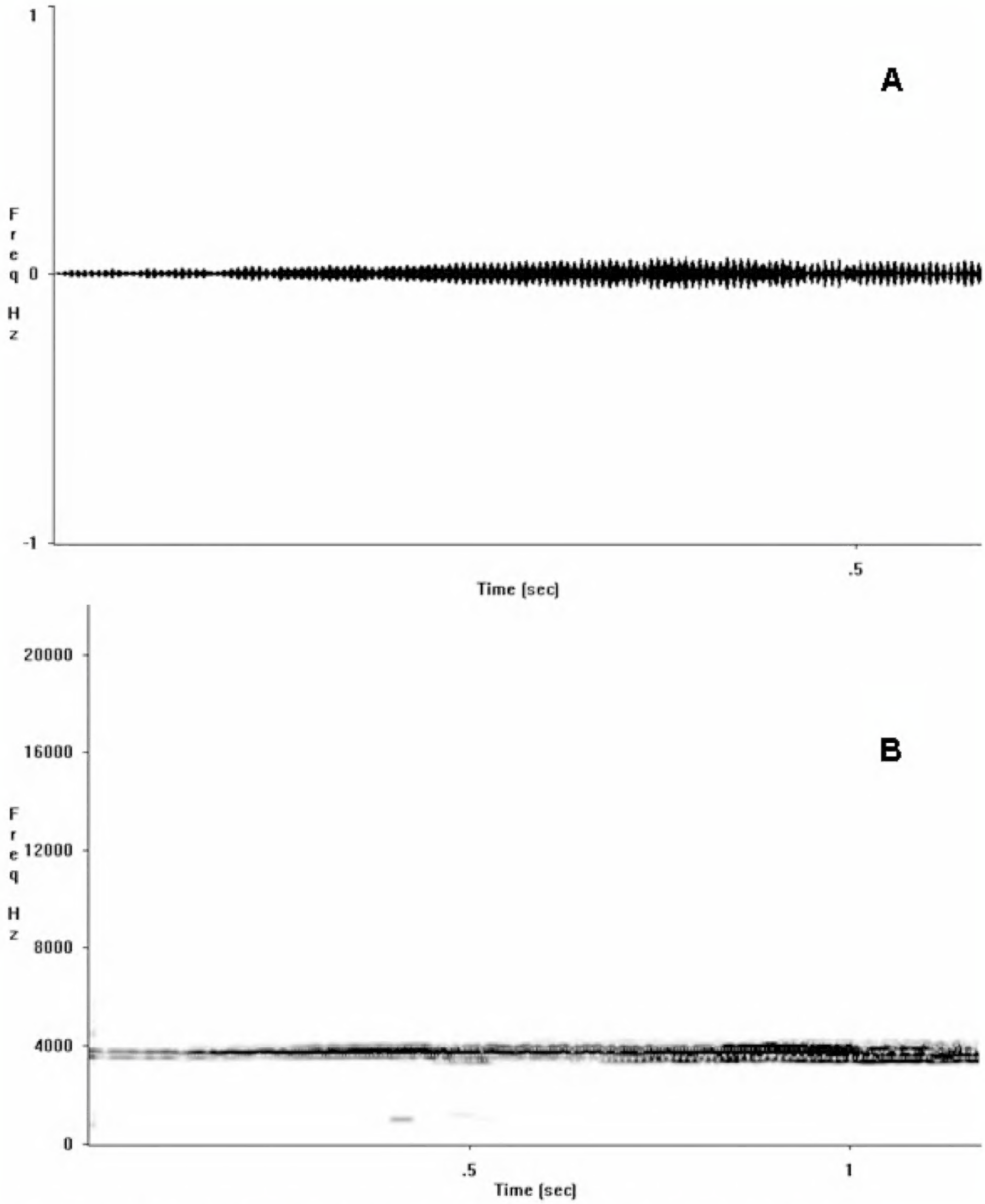

Figure 3. Oscillogram (A) and Sonogram (B) of a fragment of *E. skotogaster* advertisement call.

Check List **5**(2): 418–421, 2009.
ISSN: 1809-127X

NOTES ON GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION

Acknowledgements
We are grateful to J. Faivovich, B. Blotto and A. Ronco for their corrections and comments on the manuscript and to the reviewers M. Vaira and D. Cardozo. We would also like to thank Ricardo Vargas for kindly hosting us during the surveys in Isla de Cañas.

Literature cited

Lavilla, E. O., M. Vaira, & L. Ferrari. 2003. A new species of *Elachistocleis* (Anura: Microhylidae) from the Andean Yungas of Argentina, with comments on the *Elachistocleis ovalis* – *E. bicolor* controversy. Amphibia-Reptilia 24: 269-284.

Lavilla, E. O. 2004. *Elachistocleis skotogaster* In: IUCN 2008. 2008 IUCN Red List of threatened species. Accessible at http://www.iucnredlist.org. Captured on 07 May 2009.

Received January 2009
Accepted May 2009
Published online August 2009